CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 11 August 1994, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Soemadi D.M. Brotodiningrat (Indonesia)

GE.94-63691 (E)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 687th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament. I have no speaker inscribed on the list for today. Does any delegation wish to take the floor?

If not, I would like to make some closing remarks as Indonesia's presidency comes to an end. Thereafter I propose to take up for decision the request received from Spain to participate, during the third part of the session, in the work of the Conference.

Distinguished delegates, this being the last occasion on which I preside over the Conference on Disarmament, I would like to make a few concluding remarks before closing our business for today.

The Conference on Disarmament is entering the final stages of negotiations in which all its subsidiary bodies are now preparing the report to be submitted to the Conference on Disarmament for approval, to be subsequently presented to the upcoming General Assembly of the United Nations. It is indeed gratifying to note that, apart from preparing the technical part of the report, the Ad hoc Committee on NTB chaired by our distinguished colleague, Ambassador Marín Bosch, continues its intensive negotiations on substantive issues in which both the chairmen of Working Group 1, on verification, and of Working Group 2, on legal/institutional issues, Ambassadors Hoffman and Dembinski, have respectively managed to produce material which can be further developed to form expeditiously a rolling-text for a CTBT, hopefully during the envisaged intersessional period.

Serious efforts have also been deployed by the chairmen of the other Ad hoc Committees, namely on TIA, NSA and on PAROS, in preparing their final reports to the Conference in a timely fashion. I wish to take this occasion to express my appreciation to them for the efficient manner with which they have conducted the work of their respective subsidiary bodies. As far as the issue of a cut-off treaty is concerned, I would like to encourage the Special Coordinator, Ambassador Shannon of Canada, to spare no effort to bring about a consensus on the establishment of an ad hoc committee on this item. In the same vein, not being unaware of the magnitude and difficulties of the task facing Ambassador Norberg, I am nevertheless confident that his efforts will pave the way toward the satisfactory solution to this question.

The other important and urgent subject which needs our continued attention is the expansion of the membership of the Conference, which is long overdue. Many ideas and proposals have been put forward, including the suggestion contained in the collective letter addressed to me by the Group of 23 countries listed in the O'Sullivan proposal, as to how this question should best be addressed and resolved. I am fully confident that under the able leadership of Ambassador Lampreia, the Friend of the Chair on this issue, an acceptable formula could be speedily found in order to respond to the legitimate wish of these countries to become full members of the Conference at the earliest possible date.

The President

To conclude, let me sincerely thank the group coordinators, and the Chinese delegation as well as the Indian and Iranian delegations, as members of the troika, for the precious support they have rendered to me in the discharge of my duties. Meanwhile, I would also like to congratulate Ambassador Nasseri of Iran, who is going to assume the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament starting next week, for which I wish him every success. I pledge the fullest support of my delegation in helping him to carry out his responsibility. It would be remiss of me if I did not also take this opportunity to thank most sincerely the Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Petrovsky, as well as his deputy, Mr. Bensmail, and their staff for the invaluable help they have extended to me during my tenure as President of the Conference. My thanks also go to my esteemed colleagues who presided over the Conference before me and who have greatly contributed to make my task easier.

As announced, I would now like to invite the Conference to consider the request received from Spain to participate, during the third part of the session, in the work of the Conference. The secretariat has distributed today a note from the President containing this request (doc. CD/WP.455). During the consultations I have been holding, there has been no objection to this request. In the circumstance, I propose that we adopt the recommendation contained in document CD/WP.455 directly in plenary, it being understood that this does not constitute a precedent for future occasions when an informal meeting might be necessary. May I take it that the Conference takes a decision to this effect?

It is so decided.

May I now turn to the informal paper circulated by the secretariat, containing the timetable of meetings to be held next week by the Conference and its subsidiary bodies. This timetable has been prepared in consultation with the chairmen of the Ad hoc Committees. As usual, it is merely indicative and may be changed, if necessary. On that understanding, I suggest that we adopt it.

It is so decided.

That concludes our business for today. However, before adjourning, I wish to remind you that this meeting will be immediately followed by informal open-ended consultations on review of the agenda.

Mrs. BAUTA SOLÉS (Cuba) (translated from Spanish): Mr. President, I should like first of all to take this opportunity to thank you for your excellent stewardship during your term at discharging the duties of President of the Conference. With reference to what you have just announced - that following this plenary meeting which we are on the point of concluding there will be consultations chaired by Ambassador Norberg on the topic of the agenda, I should like to take advantage of delegations' presence to say that, as we agreed yesterday in the presidential meetings that you chaired, if there is time available after Ambassador Norberg's consultations this delegation would like to take the opportunity to hold consultations on the report of the

Mrs. Bauta Solés

outer space committee. Although this information has been transmitted to the group coordinators, I think there has been so little time that it would be good to inform those present here too of the agreement we reached yesterday in the presidential consultations.

The PRESIDENT: I would like to confirm that indeed, consultations on this issue were held yesterday during the presidential consultations and indeed, should there be time left after the informal open-ended consultations on review of the agenda, there will, as announced by our colleague from Cuba, be informal consultations on the draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space.

The next plenary meeting of the Conference will be held on Thursday, 18 August 1994, at 10 a.m.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.